Charge for use of underground water

854. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the rates being charged from Andhra Pradesh *vis-a-vis* other States for the use of under ground water for agricultural purposes;

(b) the reasons for variance in rates prescribed for various States and the norms for fixing these rates;

(c) the main recommendations of the expert committee set up by Government to rationalize these rates; and

(d) the details of action taken on these recommendation by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The rates for use of ground water for agricultural purposes are decided by the State Governments. As per report received from Andhra Pradesh Government, the use of ground water for agriculture purposes is not being charged.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources has not constituted any expert committee for examining rationalization of rates for the use of ground water for agriculture purposes.

Declaration of rivers as national assets

855. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether to increase irrigation potential and harness the hydro-power possibilities, the Central Government had decided to adopt some rivers as "National Assets';

(b) if so, the details of rivers in the country which have been adopted by the Central Government so far;

(c) whether Government is aware that water dispute amongst some States have created imbalance in increasing irrigation potential; and

(d) if so, the strategies Government propose to formulate to have a proper control of various rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In order to increase irrigated area in the country and to harness hydropower potential, the Central Government has declared 14 water resources projects as 'National Projects'.

(b) The details of the projects declared as National Projects with river/river basin in which these projects are located is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Most of the major rivers in India are inter-State in character having catchments/watersheds in two or more States. The water disputes arise amongst the basin States

with regard to the use, distribution or control of the waters in respect of these inter-State rivers/river valleys.

The settlement of disputes by negotiations foster a spirit of involvement of the States concerned and ultimately lead to more expeditious development of water resources. Success has been achieved in resolving the disputes by negotiations in the past and about 125 agreements have been reached between the basin States.

The Government of India has enacted the Inter- State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter -State rivers and river valley. When the Central Government is satisfied that the dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the same is referred to a tribunal under the provisions of Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956. At present, three Tribunals have been constituted in respect of water disputes related to Ravi & Beas, Cauvery and Krishna river under ISRWD Act 1956.

Further, the Government of India enacted the River Boards Act 1956 under entry 56. The River Boards Act envisages setting up of River Boards for Inter-State river basins to advise the State Governments in planning and development of inter State rivers. So far, no river board has been established under this act. However, some River Boards, Commissions, Authorities have been constituted through Government resolution, executive orders or Acts based upon interstate agreements, State reorganization acts and award of tribunal such as Betwa River Board, Bansagar Control Board, Tungabhadra Board, Narmada Control Authority, Bhakra Beas Management Board and Upper Yamuna River Board.

Statement

List of projects declared as national projects by Government

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	State
1	Teesta Barrage	West Bengal
2	Shahpur Kandi	Punjab
3	Bursar	J & K
4	2nd Ravi Vyas Link	Punjab
5	Ujh multipurpose project	J & K
6	Gyspa project	HP
7	Lakhvar Vyasi	Uttaranchal
8	Kishau	HP/Uttaranchal
9	Renuka	HP
10	Noa-Dehang Dam Project	Arunanchal Pradesh
11	Kulsa Dam Project	Assam
12	Upper Siang	Arunanchal Pradesh
13	Gosikhurd	Maharashtra
14	Ken Betwa	Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh